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ED CLIFF'S RECOLLECTIONS
OF HIS TIME AS
FOREST SUPERVISOR
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A transcription of Ed Cliff's
recollections, made during
an inspection trip on
September 29 - October 4, 1980

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THE SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST - THEN AND NOW

EDWARD P. CLIFF'S RECOLLECTIONS

OF HIS TIME AS SUPERVISOR OF THE

SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST 1939-1942

A transcription of recollections of Edward P. Cliff and his observations and comments on present programs and goals made during a visit to the Siskiyou National Forest as a Forest Service Volunteer, September 29 - October 4, 1980.

FOREWORD

Edward P. Cliff, former Chief of the United States Forest Service, served as Forest Supervisor of the Siskiyou National Forest from May 1939 through December 1941 and as Supervisor of the Fremont National Forest from January 1942 to April 1944. Early in 1980, Regional Forester R.E. Worthington invited Cliff to revisit these two National Forests as a Volunteer to review the changes and progress made in resource management since he was Supervisor and to make observations and comments on current programs and goals.

Accordingly, Cliff revisited the Siskiyou September 29 to October 4, 1980 and the Fremont between October 13 and 23. On both National Forests his recollections, comments and observations were recorded on tapes as he travelled around the Forests, as were his conversations with individuals and groups of Forest Service employees and others. A record made in this way naturally contains some duplication and casual conversation of little consequence, so each National Forest reviewed its tapes, attempting to eliminate as much of the duplication and trivia as possible. They then transcribed the portions which best portrayed the observations and comments made by Cliff. This material was then reviewed and edited by Cliff to assure that the record accurately and completely reflects the message he desired to leave with the Forest Service.

Following is the transcription of selected portions of the recordings made on the Siskiyou National Forest.

Ed Cliff's recollection of Siskiyou fires and other activities given at a Supervisor/staff meeting in Grants Pass September 29, 1980

Ed Cliff: The Siskiyou, in the 30's had a long history of incendiarism, and this preceded the 30's. There's a long history of indendiarism on this forest dating back as far as the gold rush in the early 1850's.

It was considered to be one of the worst fire forests in the whole United States, although there were some years when it didn't suffer much. Of course, the forest was relatively inaccessible. By automobile you could get around the edges and into the forest only in a few places. No road crossed the forest except the Redwood Highway. It crossed the Gasquet District, which was then part of the Siskiyou. To get to the Chetco, you went on to Crescent City and then back up the coast, or north to Coquille and back down the coast to Gold Beach.

When I came to the Forest in 1939 as Forest Supervisor, a road had just been broken through to Agness in the preceding year. It was by way of the south fork of the Coquille. You could drive in to Agness but you had to go over to Powers to do it, and that was relatively recent, so it was a tough show.

My experience on fire in the Siskiyou preceded my assignment here. I was stationed in the Regional Office. I was there for five years as a Wildlife Staff Officer. I was responsible for all the wildlife activities in the Region and I had been down here on a wildlife trip trying to stir up some interest in wildlife, which was pretty difficult. I was trying to get the Forest to do something to include a little wildlife work in their CCC program, without much success. And then in 1936 when I was in the R.O., the Region had organized a special overhead fire crew which was called the Regional SOS -- Service of Supplies Crew. They put all the younger men on this unit and we got a little special training and were dispatched to all the major fires in the Region. Whenever a fire occurred that was beyond the capability of the Forest to handle, we were sent. In the five years that I was in the Portland Office, I got on nearly every big project fire. In September 1936, the Southern Oregon Fire Bust occurred. This was 44 years ago, and in a few days the Bandon fire burned and I was sent down with several bus loads of men to help fight a fire at Carpenterville, south of Gold Beach. The Siskiyou had several fires. There were hundreds of fires started in Southwestern Oregon

during that period. It was a period of east winds. Many land-clearing and slash-burning fires were started and got out of control. The fire that burned Bandon was smoldering around for several days and then exploded. I arrived in Bandon in time to see the fire level that town completely, a wipeout. There were one or two buildings left, and the fires started all along the coast, mostly, between Coos Bay and the California line. State and private fire responsibilities were involved. What would be the Coos Bay Fire Protective Association was handling the state responsibility.

I went down to Gold Beach and we set up a central fire camp there to dispatch men and equipment to several Forest Service fires down there, and then the thing got so big and out of hand that the State and the Protective Association couldn't handle the fires on State and private lands. It was beyond their manpower and mobilization abilities, so there was an agreement struck between the Forest Service and the State and the Association--the Forest Service to take over the whole thing. Then we expanded Forest Service activities to town protection and fighting project fires and putting out small fires, clear up

north of Coos Bay. It suddenly grew into a big mobilization effort and we moved headquarters up to Coquille and they put me in charge of the whole back of the line SOS organization in Coquille. I had an office in the top of the bank building and rented a half-block sized warehouse. I remember the first order for groceries was $150,000, which would buy a lot of groceries. We brought in CCC camps from all over the Region. We had to pick up many firefighters when we took over. The State crews continued to participate but we were fighting 80,000 acres of fire in dozens of locations all at once. Weather continued bad until almost Thanksgiving. We demobilized around Thanksgiving. This was the biggest fire organization effort in the Region up to then, and may be up till now. In size it was exceeded by fires like the Tillamook which was several years prior to this but I don't think they had as much manpower. I don't remember how many men we had, 7 or 8,000 or more working on these fires.

I got fairly well indoctrinated on Southern Oregon Fires at that time and later I was performing somewhat the same role on the Chetco fire in '38. It started at Cedar Camp -- I believe that's the name. We

started calling it the Cedar Camp Fire because of its location and the origin. It later became better known as the Chetco Fire. It was almost a day's walk for the fire crew from the end of the road at Long Ridge to the origin of the fire. It was a lightning fire -- there was a rise in numbers of lightning fires in '38. Lightning started a number of fires at the same time in the Siskiyou. This one got away and got big. The weather was bad. It was during quite a long dry spell, and it became a major fire. There was no road access. You could get near the edge of it in a place or two, like Long Ridge.

Wayne Spencer,
Fire Staff
Officer: We still have fire maps.

Ed Cliff: But this fire was noteworthy because it was the first big one in the Region that was serviced almost completely with aerial droppings. We didn't have the smokejumpers yet. They were just in the formative stage. We dropped most of the supplies. Well, we hauled a lot into Long Ridge and packed them out from there, but we established camps all along the perimeter of the fire in the back country and serviced

them completely by dropping the supplies from airplanes.

Wayne Spencer: Is that where old Roseburg burned in there?

Ed Cliff: No, it was just Siskiyou brush. It was brushier than hell. That country's been burned over repeatedly and was regrown with heavy brush -- it was tough. It burned clear up into Tincup. The Forest Service had just finished building the airstrip at Gasquet. We serviced this fire from Gasquet. The parachutes used were made from burlap bags, that is wool sacks. These were the first cargo parachutes. We fought that fire for several weeks, and it was the costliest fire ever fought by the Forest Service, I think, in this Region. It was a very costly fire, and it burned something around 35,000 acres before it was put out. When we were fighting this one there were several others. There was a lightning strike that hit the Siskiyou Fork on the Gasquet. We couldn't get men into it--it was a very difficult place. It smoldered around for two days and then took off. Quite a big fire. If we'd had smoke jumpers we could have doused it in no time.

Wayne Spencer: It waited for quite awhile before it started to burn?

Ed Cliff: No, it didn't really take off for about a day. By the time the men got there they were pooped. It was beyond their control, and there were other fires in the Forest and the forces were spread a little thin. They called on the SOS unit and a lot of the men who later served on the Siskiyou like Boyd Rasmussen and Merl Lowden. Merl was Ranger over at Gasquet. He later became Chief of Fire Control in Washington D.C., but, there were a lot of people on that fire.

Well, the next year, the Regional Office decided to change command on the Siskiyou and they asked me to come down here and supervise it in '39. I was somewhat surprised. I was not trained in or didn't consider myself to be an expert in fire control. My major training was mainly in range and wildlife management. Because of my work on these project fires, they decided to offer the job to me. They decided that this was a young man's forest and that they needed a change in leadership so they asked me to take over in '39 and I gladly accepted. I didn't want to make a career of being a staff officer.

As I told you, the Siskiyou had a long and sad history of incendiary fires. During the depression years, people set fires for a number of reasons. They set fires to get work. They had organized rings. Some of them owned pack stock and when fires started, they'd appear on the scene and volunteer the use of their pack stock for a price. Others would want work and these kind of crews would tend to keep the fires going for long periods of employment. Then there were people settled in the mountains on small subsistence farms and they were known as the light burners.

The light burners and the miners lit the fires as they got around easier and for a number of other reasons such as to improve grass for cattle and to expose minerals. Then the Forest Service tried to clamp down on this and adopted the policy of no employment for these settlers. No employment of local people at all. The CCC's were here. When I came, we had 2½ camps in the forest. They were a good source of fire fighters. We called them our neighbors in the forest--good help, so the Service decided not to hire anybody on the local scene.

During this same period, there was a big controversy raging in Oregon over the question of converting timber lands to pasture. The State Agricultural College at Corvallis, OSU, and the agronomists there were advocating the conversion of cut-over lands in Coos County, Curry County, and other places to pasture to provide an annual income to the landowners who were getting only a dollar and a-half a thousand for timber. There were a lot of cutovers and there were some successful conversions and the owners made a profit from it.

Well, there were no real fresh cutovers in Curry County but people who owned timber land in Curry County, mainly outside the National Forest, wanted to burn the land to convert it to pasture. There was quite a bit of that going on. The Forest Service, the State, the timber industry, and people who lived and worked in forests generally were against it. The State College and the smaller landowners were for it and it was a bitter controversy that went on for quite a number of years. Sometime before 1939, the Forest Service took over the protection of the State and private lands in Curry County clear down to the coast and the poor Ranger down at Gold Beach

was trying to keep on top of this so-called controlled burning on State and private lands. It was pretty rough. The Ranger at Gold Beach had the whole front there from the California line north to Six Rivers. He didn't have one permanent assistant position. All we had was seasonal employees. Ed Marshal was the ranger when I came, but before him was -- I remember Louis Neff and a few others. It was a tough go and by 1939 when I came, they had dissolved the partnership and the Coos County Fire Protective Association took over fire protection outside the forest. Before I came in '39, the protection of private and State lands and the O&C lands was in the hands of the Forest Service in Curry County.

Bill Covey: How many Districts did you have down there?

Ed Cliff: Well, there were 5 Districts set up, essentially as you have now plus the Gasquet. There was bitterness over the prescribed burning. The people in Curry County couldn't see any future for timber at all. They were isolated; there was no industry down there. There had been a big operation down at Brookings. You know, the California and Oregon Lumber Co., but early in the depression, that was closed down. They

got the easy stuff on private lands first. The Forest Service made some sales on the lower Chetco and Winchuck. Then they went broke or closed down early in the depression. The mill was dismantled and Brookings was a ghost town really. It was almost completely deserted, so the landowners couldn't see any future in timber. It was a hundred mile haul to Coquille; no mills to speak of and no harvest roads, so they couldn't see much future in timber in Curry County. They wanted to burn the land, so this was the situation.

The Forest Service, in addition to the no hire policy, brought in a forest fire law enforcement officer named Lee Blevins. Blevins was a natural born detective. He had the instincts of a bloodhound and an FBI operator. He was a self-made detective. He came here from the Umatilla Forest. He was a big guy and looked something like an Indian. When he first came here he'd get out on the trails. He made a number of cases. He put some of the ring-leaders in jail, in the penitentiary, and this had a dampening effect. Then on top of all this light burning and land conversion sentiment, some of the leading citizens in Curry County were involved -- the bigger land

owners. The Service arrested a fellow named Turner at Gold Beach. That created a hell of a bad stink. I remember one of the leading attorneys named Buffington defended Turner who was encouraging people to light fires in the vicinity of the town.

It was not easy at this time. The Forest Service also was protecting O&C lands within the old boundaries, so we had a bigger spread of protection responsibilities than you have now. Then we had the Gasquet District. It had the same kind of bad fires too.

Bill Covey: Was that at Powers?

Ed Cliff: No, we had Rangers at Powers, and at Agness, Galice, Gold Beach, Gasquet, and the Redwood Ranger Station at Cave Junction. The Illinois Valley station had been moved from Page Creek over to Cave Junction, so the Districts were a little different.

The Chetco District extended all along the coast from the Sixes River to the California line.

Agness was a District then. The main access to Agness was up the river in a boat. So Agness was a separate Ranger District.

Bill Covey: It was probably the most remote, wasn't it?

Ed Cliff: Yes, it was quite remote; quite difficult to get in to. They had to go to Powers and drive up over the hill, or to Gold Beach and up the river, or down the river on a trail from Galice, and I traveled it all three ways.

Wayne Spencer: It is interesting to work with the Coos Forest Protection Association. Norm Boyd is there now (1980). They still have a lot of trouble with, and work very hard with, the landowners, particularly in Coos County, on the light burning. Have to be very careful to allow them to burn early enough so they don't set it off somewhere else, and we still participate very highly in trying to help them with some of those.

Ed Cliff: Well, the 40-man crew was set up in 1939. This was one of the things, of course, that the Regional Office decided. This experimental effort in the Forest

Service was sponsored by Washington in an effort to get away from pickup laborers and to take advantage of well trained, hard hitting crews made up of real tough guys. It was decided to try this experiment here on the Siskiyou. It happened to coincide with the time that I came here, so this was one of my first responsibilities. The crew was recruited from all over the Region. Each Forest nominated two or more of their top fire fighting sub-professional personnel. Boy, they were good men! It was an honor to be on this particular crew. They came from all over the Region. From the Siskiyou we put up one of our champion light burners from the Agness Area, Gail Hawkins. He could hike across this Forest in a day or less. He was a good one!

Wayne Spencer: Was that Rolfe Anderson?

Ed Cliff: No, his name was Meservey. Rolfe Anderson was chosen as the leader of the 40-man crew for the first year and we stationed it at Cave Junction. This crew was to be on call to go anyplace in the region. It was equipped with lightweight equipment: down bedrolls, condensed food, and fire tools. They were supposed to be able to subsist themselves for a day or so,

and go anyplace -- and they could! We sent them off the Forest a few times. They went to the second Tillamook fire when it broke out. Part of the area burned over again in 1939 and we sent them up there. We sent them a few other places. Most of their activities were on this Forest. They were equivalent to a hundred or so ordinary men and they were mobile and they could get back off the roads. It was a very successful experiment.

Well, it was continued the second year. In the meantime, Kermit Linstedt was the Ranger at Agness in '39. He was promoted and went up to the Regional Office in State and Private Forestry. I think they later put him in the State Forester's Office as a liaison officer -- CCC and State and Private liaison. At least, he was there sometime later. I made Rolfe Anderson the Ranger at Agness and then the second year, Philbrick was the leader of the 40-Man Crew. The guys he was working with were just as good as Philbrick. Rolfe Anderson could keep up with them too. The 40-Man Crew was very successful and so we organized similar crews in the CCC camps. Put red hats on them, and hell, these kids thought they were as good as the original crew. I couldn't verify this

without a little research, but I think this was the origin of the so-called Hot-Shot crews that were later organized in California and other places.

Now, about this time, the smokejumpers came into being. We built the Illinois Valley Airport in '39, the first year I was here. We started the mechanized trail (the Chetco Divide Trail) across the high country between Curry County and Josephine County. This was an experiment, too. Built a 4-foot tread trail with small trail tractors. We built a small truck to transport things. It was, frankly, all an experiment to mechanize trails to improve access to this kind of country.

Bill Covey: We still have some of them --

Ed Cliff: We had one of the Regional fire caches. It served Southern Oregon and we had the Regional remount station here too.

Bill Covey: Where was that?

Ed Cliff: That was at Redwood Ranger Station, down on the creek beyond the office. We had permanently employed

packers to take care of the horses and mules. The figure that sticks in my mind is that we had somewhere near 100 horses and mules on the Forest. Each District had its own mule string and a packer who was a seasonal worker. In addition we had the Central remount. Altogether, it was around a hundred horses and mules or more. This regional remount was subject to call from outside of the Forest. If they got in trouble on the Umpqua, equipment was dispatched to them and to other forests.

Well, this was our responsibility and that worked out as long as we needed horses and mules. This had been in effect for several years. We also had a central warehouse. We had the fire cache and had the damn thing loaded up with burlap parachutes. They were the thing at that time. I don't know what happened to them. I guess they went the way of the stonebridge lanterns and crosscut saws. They were replaced later on with standard parachutes, parachutes made of nylon or whatever they're made of.

The smokejumpers didn't come until after I left here at the end of '41, but we were getting ready for the smokejumpers when we built the airstrip at Cave

Junction. What we had in mind mainly, was a base for aerial supply. We hadn't yet gotten into the retardant business.

Bill Covey: And Red Nelson was the Ranger at Redwood then?

Ed Cliff: Red Nelson was the Ranger at Redwood, Ed Marshall was at Gold Beach, Kerm Linstedt was at Agness, Boyd Rasmussen was at Powers, and Gail Baker was at Gasquet. Loren Cooper, an old-timer, and a damn good one, was here at Galice. That was the Ranger force, and if I'm right about it, I'd say it's the best bunch of Rangers that ever assembled in one Forest. And then on the staff here I had Les Colvill as my Assistant Supervisor. He was responsible for fire and timber, lands and operation. Lee Blevins was the law enforcement Officer. I put grazing and some of the special uses under Lee. I thought he could do some of that. Then I had Don Cameron as an engineer and he had one junior engineer assistant part of the time named Bruce Olson. Bruce left us after about a year and wasn't replaced.

We had a Fire Planning Officer named Stan Hayward who was here the first year. He was continuing a

fire control planning exercise that was part of a regional planning exercise. Stan was a junior forester type, a young guy, who died on the job of an embolism. It was a shock. I had to break the news to his wife. He came to the office perfectly happy and alive; he had been running around these peaks and came to the office and died on us. He was a good man; some the the work he did resulted in increasing the detection system -- adding more lookouts. That was all one year.

Red Nelson was so good he got promoted after the second year and Harold Bowerman came in. Red went to the Umpqua Staff and Linstedt, I told you, went to the Regional Office in State and Private Forestry. He was replaced by Rolfe Anderson.

The third year I was here, Boyd Rasmussen got so good that we couldn't hold him. H.E.D. Brown (Alphabet Brown) came down from the Mount Baker and took over the Powers District. He was a good solid practical Ranger but not in the class of Rasmussen.

Leo Quakenbush succeeded Gail Baker at Gasquet. The Chief of Forest Service decided to transfer the

Gasquet District to Region 5. I fought that idea as long as I was here, but they decided to do it, so we pulled Gail Baker out of the District and decided to give Region 5 the personnel that was equal to the quality of the personnel in Region 5. We put an old-time Ranger (Leo Quackenbush) down there and moved Gail Baker to the Deschutes. Then after I left the Forest, we lost Gasquet.

Bill Covey: That didn't hasten your movements? (transfer)

Ed Cliff: No, no. I don't think so. I worked myself out of a job here. Well, anyway, that was the state of things.

The first year, '39, when I was here, we really had a test. The natives tested us. We had at least 4 major project fires going at once. The Horseshoe Bend Fire, which was 2,000 acres or something like that, but damn hard to get at. At the same time that was burning, a logging fire started over in Wooden Rock Creek on Eden Ridge and burned up a whole bunch of logs and slash. It was a hot summer. Then we had another one on the Powers District. Then the incendiarists touched one off in Eagle Creek, Chetco

District, and that was the biggest. It got to be around 8,000 acres, and these fires were all going simultaneously. We mobilized the crews, got a little help from the outside and got on top of them. We arrested a suspect named Bob Tolman. Don't know if the old Tolman cabin is still over there or not.

Russ Kahre: It's now called Tolman Ranch.

Ed Cliff: Well, he was a young man, a rangy guy. He'd lope over those hills faster than a coyote, but we arrested him and brought him in here. I think we failed to get an indictment as we didn't have enough good solid evidence, but it might have helped to arrest him anyway.

By the end of that year I had decided that the Law Enforcement Officer was doing more harm than good and that the people resented him. They got so they played games with him. They knew the trails in the country better than he did and we were still getting incendiary fires around. He couldn't catch 'em and they resented the arrests that were made. He arrested some of the fathers, sons, brothers and husbands, but he hadn't made any good solid cases for awhile. He

was getting a little old and was slowing down, like I am. I shouldn't say that on the record because he was a good man, very conscientious but he wasn't quite as active as he was a few years before.

After we had experienced this first year, I told Lyle Watts, the Regional Forester, that I would like to have that man transferred and he said okay. I told him why and I told him I would like to try a different approach so we changed the hiring policy. These local people were good workers, good mountaineers, and we started hiring them on our crews, on trail crews, as lookouts and in the fire organization. I told them we'd hire them on fires, but we wouldn't hire them on any fires that started in their back yards, or their neighborhoods. So we went on with this plan. In addition, we hired prevention guards. They were not professional people, they were practically trained backwoods type guards, most of them. Their duty was to go around and visit with these people and if they had burning to do, to help plan and conduct their burns, to sit and whittle and advise them on fireproofing around their places and just get acquainted and be good neighbors. We had these fellows, several of them, on each Ranger District.

And the Rangers did this too. I did some of it myself. I hiked a number of trails and visited with people that had never seen a Forest Supervisor and this seemed to work. Beyond the second year, we had very few fires.

The biggest fire we had in 1940, was a fire on the Little Chetco. It got to a fairly good size, about 2000 acres. By the time I left the Forest at the end of 1941, we didn't have any incendiary fires. As I recall, the total burned area was only 36 acres in 1941.

At that time the Regional Forester decided to send me to Fremont which matched my professional training better so I loaded up and went to the Fremont. Herschel Obye took over here. In the meantime the war started and a lot of our friends and neighbors went to war. The war brought industry and the whole economic picture changed. The forest industry started coming in. This included all the developments down at Brookings and they had mills in Gold Beach that they never thought they'd have, and all this industry around Grants Pass came in. Then the Forest suddenly became very valuable so the whole attitude, the whole

economic picture changed with the advent of the war. It never really got back to where it was.

In the meantime, road systems were established but the major battle for protection still continued. Colvill was the Assistant Supervisor, Cameron was the Engineer. We had Bruce Olson as an Assistant Engineer at one time, and that was the engineering staff. We had Ernie Shank as the Administrative Officer; he had a bookkeeper, Dick Ferris, and there were four or five clerks in the office. That was it--the whole supervisory personnel. CCC camps added strength to the organization and they did an awful lot of work on road construction, construction of lookouts, Ranger stations and campgrounds--real good progress was made over a few years.

Some of the best campgrounds in the Region were in the Gasquet District.

That was the Forest staff and I told you about the Ranger personnel. None of the Rangers had full time assistants, none of them. They didn't have clerks, just starting at that time was the thinking about Ranger clerks. They had seasonal organizations

consisting of fire protection people and trail maintenance crews, and that sort of thing. They were pretty well equipped with those kind of people but they were all seasonal.

Bill Covey: Your office was in the post office building?

Ed Cliff: Yeah, we occupied the full top floor in the Post Office building. The Galice District Ranger had one room there and he didn't have an assistant; he was just a one man show.

The Siskiyou was considered to be a poor timber forest for the west side and it was called the Siskiyou Brush Patch. The local Rangers even referred to it as the Siskiyou Brush Patch, and it was brushy. There was no question about it, but I insisted they (our people) quit referring to it as the Siskiyou Brush Patch. I told them it had some real resources and some real potential and some day it would come into its own. It was worthwhile doing something to protect it so we quit calling it the Siskiyou Brush Patch. At least, if our people called it that they heard from me. I could see the potential in this forest. The Gold Beach Chamber of Commerce asked me to come over

and give them information on the resources to support their effort to get a deep sea harbor. Well, I dug up some of the old timber records we had from the Forest survey. I assembled these figures and gave them to the Chamber of Commerce. These figures surprised them, surprised our people too. When we started analyzing what we had, even after years of burning and somewhat partial neglect, we still had a sizable resource.

The following was discussed by Ed Cliff at the Chetco Ranger Station, Brookings, Oregon, October 1, 1980.

Ed Cliff: I'm very pleased to meet you people. Coming back here brings back many memories. I was a young man in the Forest Service when I first came to this country. My first exposure was when I made a loop around the Forest about 1934 or '35 when I was working out of the Regional Office--I was a Wildlife Staff Officer.

Part of my duties was to be on the Regional Service of Supply (SOS) Unit, for fires and they sent us to all the big fires in the Region. I got sent down here on the group of fires that occurred in 1936 when Bandon burned. We had a big fire here on the Siskiyou, the Carpenterville Fire, that was a part of that campaign. They sent me down with a bunch of men to help fight the Carpenterville Fire. I was all of 27 years old then. We set up headquarters at Gold Beach. We had several fires on the Siskiyou. Then the thing got real big and the Forest Service took over all the fire control work because it got too big for the state and the Association to handle. We moved up to Coquille and fought those fires until about Thanksgiving time. It was a long hard seige -- something like 80,000 acres burned and the town of Bandon was totally destroyed -- and we were fighting

15 or so big project fires at once. That was my first exposure to working down here.

When the big Chetco Fire started in '38, I was sent down here again with the SOS Unit to help supply the back of the line services for the Chetco Fire. We established camp up on Long Ridge and dispatched crews out of there. I think it started early in July and ended a month later -- more or less. Your little history here is about right but these fire camps that were established around the Chetco Fire were serviced from the air. The ones that were closer in were serviced by pack stock. We would truck the supplies and equipment to the end of the road and pack them in. But the ones on the back part of the fire were serviced completely by aerial delivery from airplanes, using burlap sack parachutes -- parachutes made out of burlap wool sacks. The aerial supply base was at Gasquet. The Forest Service had just completed construction of an airstrip at Gasquet. The supplies were flown out of Gasquet over here and dropped. They were able to drop radios, and all kinds of things -- even eggs without breaking them -- with those burlap parachutes. They used bread, in the cargoes, when they dropped things like radios and eggs they

used bread as a padding underneath the package and when it landed, the bread would squash. But it was edible and the boys on the fire were glad to get it because sometimes when they expected food, they got a cargo of falling wedges or something like that instead of food. Well, that was a great experience.

The following year the Regional Office decided to make a change in leadership on the Siskiyou Forest. This Forest was considered to be the worst forest fire in the whole west coast -- it had a long history of incendiarism and a lot of country burned over the years. You can tell it by looking at the country -- the old fire scars, and brush patches. Typically, there were few or no roads, just a few roads around the perimeter -- it was mostly trail areas and the trails weren't very good -- brushy, hard country to get around in.

Well, they sent me down here as Supervisor in 1939 and I served for three years. Now, in those days the Chetco District was not a separate district. It was combined with the Gold Beach District. It took in all the country along the front (coast), from California, clear to the north end of the Forest and

Agness was a separate District. Then later on they combined it with the Gold Beach District about the same time the Chetco District was reestablished with the headquarters at Brookings.

One of the Rangers I remember at Brookings was named Monte Holst. He was the son of an old-time Ranger over on the Rogue River Forest. Monte went back to the Rogue River -- he was a great big handsome looking guy. Then when they had the big New England Hurricane, I think this was in the late '40's, they mobilized people from all over the Forest Service to go back and help salvage the timber. He went back then and worked in Rhode Island -- believe it or not, there's timber in Rhode island -- and there was some to be salvaged. But some wealthy young woman threw a loop around Monte and they got married and Monte never did come back to us. She was running a rural fire department. She thought that a Forest Ranger was the most romantic guy in the world, so she roped him and they got married and I hope they lived happily ever after. Monte came in to see me when I was Assistant Chief in Washington, D.C., and talked about a reassignment. I asked him if he was coming back and he says, "I'm not sure I want to go back" -- the

reason was this gal that took control of his life. A lot of things happen to a Chetco Ranger, you know.

Well, anyway, for many years the Chetco District headquarters was here. I don't think they had a Ranger Station. The Chetco Ranger Office had been in one of the old lumber company buildings downtown -- just a stall in one of the buildings. But in the 30's this District was joined with the Gold Beach District. The Forest Service, under contract with the state, got the responsibility for fighting fire on all the state and private forest land in Curry County -- all along the cost. And it was a big job.

Sometime after I left the Forest, they re-established the Chetco District (in 1953) as a separate District and put the Agness District in the Gold Beach District.

Question: About what year was that?

Ed Cliff: I don't recall when the reorganization took place but it was after 1941. During the depression, there was a man in Brookings named Elmer Bancus who either acquired the bankrupt lumber company's property or

acquired the right to manage and sell it. He was a great promoter and had vision -- he visualized Brookings as being a revived town. He never lost that faith. He was selling lots and promoting business. He promoted the Azalea State park and the Azalea festival.

Elmer Bancus really helped revive Brookings but the thing that revived Brookings the most was the economic development that accompanied World War II, the expansion of the timber industry back into this country, and the tourist business. Brookings always had outstanding natural attractions but there were no tourist accommodations here when I first saw it. It's almost unbelievable what has happened here in a few short years.

Of course, it's been about 40 years. There's been an awful lot of changes. We had no timber industry down here. There had been one large mill that cut off the easy country. Then it went bankrupt early in the '30's, the depression years.

There was no timber industry at all when I came here as Supervisor in 1939. There was a little mill --

what we call a peckerwood sawmill, sawing up in the redwoods. There was a portable mill that sawed a few myrtlewood logs and other logs for local supply. That's all there was. There was nothing at Gold Beach. This was a long ways to market and people didn't think that the timber was very valuable in those years. It was too far from market, too hard to get to and the quality was reputed to be poor. But that's all changed. Now the timber is quite valuable and looking at the pictures and the maps, I can see that there has been a lot of timber harvested and a lot of roads built. You are no longer dependent entirely on poor trails. You don't have any horses or mules any more, and so there have been a lot of changes since I was here.

I retired from the Forest Service 8½ years ago. Since then I've been working as an international forestry consultant on and off, keeping fairly busy. The Regional Forester invited me to come back to the Siskiyou and to the Fremont Forests where I'd been Forest Supervisor and to review what had happened in the historic perspective and to give these young people some solid advice, and that's what I'm doing. The Forest Service is paying my expenses. It's been

a great experience so far to come back and renew acquaintances. I've met quite a few new people. It's great to meet all you young people. I wish I were in your age class. I think the future will be quite exciting. I mentioned the Eagle Creek Fire which occurred when I first came to the Forest in 1939. The Eagle Creek Fire was an incendiary fire and it was a big one -- 8,000 acres -- and we had four major fires going at once in different parts of the Forest. We were able to get action on them and contain them without having to call on the rest of the Region except for some overhead from the Rogue River. My pride wouldn't let me call on the rest of the Region to help fight these fires. We changed our policy from no employment of local people to one of hiring locals on work crews and for fire fighting as well. The one exception was that we wouldn't hire local people to fight man-caused fires in their own neighborhood. The second year we had practically no fires. The third year, we didn't have any fires of any consequence. Then the war came and then we got the smokejumpers and the whole thing changed but the times of bad incendiarism was over.

We were sincerely interested in preserving wilderness in those days. The Kalmiopsis plant had been recently discovered up here on the Craggies by Dr. and Mrs. Leach of Portland, Oregon. It was a new species, new to science, a beautiful plant as you know. After they discovered it, people started going in and grubbing it out and hauling it out in wholesale lots to sell in their nurseries for horticultural purposes. They would take it up to Portland where the commercial nurserymen would sell it for high prices. There were people going in there with back packs to pack the stuff out in rather large quantities. At first, the only place they were aware that it grew very abundantly was around the Craggies and that's where the scavengers started taking it out, so the Forest Service set up the Craggies Botanical Area in an effort to protect this rare plant. They drew up some rules against taking out live material. Well, then we soon found out that Kalmiopsis extended way beyond the Craggies area and we started having the trail crews and the packers and the fire people mark on a map all the places they found Kalmiopsis in the back country. The maps showed quite a wide distribution so one of the ideas of setting up the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area was to give added

protection to Kalmiopsis. It was my decision to recommend establishment of the Wild Area and to name it the Kalmiopsis Wild Area. We could have named it the Upper Chetco Wild Area or something else. That is the story of how that came about, and now Congress has greatly expanded it, which indicates they didn't think much of my judgment. Anyway, I helped get it started.

When I was transferred to the Fremont Forest, I did the same thing. I set up the Gearheart Mountain Wild Area. I studied that area personally, wrote the report and sent it in and it was approved. In those days, we didn't have many public hearings over wilderness areas, we didn't have any protests, we didn't have any real back biters, we just decided to do these things and we did it. The main opposition I ran into on the Kalmiopsis was in the Forest Service. I submitted the report in '41, and World War II started about a month later. The proposal was approved by the Portland Office and sent on to Washington. Washington sat on it because there was some chrome mining in the area. Washington decided that as long as the war was going on and there was a need for strategic minerals, they should not set

the area up. Well, I was transferred back to Washington in 1944 and I asked what happened to my report. They said, "Well, we're sitting on it." So I said, "Well, let's take it out from under your seat." It was another year or two before the Chief approved it in 1946.

While I was here there was a lot of settlement on private land outside the forest boundaries but there were some homesteads within the forest. There were mining claims all over the place and miners could and did live on their claims. The homesteading has kind of an interesting background. When the National Forests were first set up they included some agricultural land, that could be cultivated. One of the big objections from the local people all over the west was that establishment of the National Forests precluded homesteading. When the Forest Reserves, later called the National Forests, were first established there was a lot of political pressure to do away with them because they impeded settlement and development. Along about 1906, a law was passed that opened up land in the National Forest to homesteading. It was called the Act of June 11, 1906. It provided that any land that was classified as agricultural land in the National Forests could

be homesteaded. They called these homesteads "June Eleven Claims" after the Act and lots of people came in and filed homesteads on these June Eleven Claims but they could only do it after it was classified by the Forest Service as potential agricultural land. There were little stringers of good soil along the creeks and meadows and so we got homesteaders introduced into the interior of many National Forests, and it was all legal. It slowed down the criticism against the National Forests but it created a whale of a problem by getting people located back in the 'boon docks' on land that wasn't really economically feasible for agriculture. By about 1950, most of these lands that had been classified had already been claimed but there were some lands that had been classified that hadn't been claimed, so the Forest Service -- and I had a hand in this too -- declassified all of them. We withdrew the remaining lands since they had been available for more than 40 years and hadn't been taken up. In effect, we closed the National Forests for entry under the Homestead Acts so it's no longer possible to homestead on National Forest Land. I'm not sure whether the old law still is on the books so that we could again classify land for homesteading -- I'm not sure about that -- it seems to me it's been rescinded. This all

came to an end in the early 1950's. A great deal of timber land was taken under the old Timber and Stone Act where a citizen could get patent to a forest homestead or a so-called timber claim, and this was the way that a lot of public domain forest land passed from government ownership to private ownership. Some of the lands that went to Coos Bay Lumber Company were acquired this way under the Timber and Stone Act. A person could go out and stake out 40 acres of the best forest land and establish a claim, and there was a lot of it done. They had an eye for good timber. Timber companies would hire loggers and others to go out and file claims. They were supposed to build a cabin. They may have put up a shack or a lean-to, and then would go in and get title to their claim and the next thing you know, they'd sell their claim to the timber company for a few dollars and go to town and "live it up." This was the way a lot of these big timber holdings were acquired throughout the west, and it happened in Western Oregon. It was a scandal the way some of it happened. It was possible to legitimately get a forest homestead if a man wanted to live on it, and I guess some of them did.

The following remarks were made by Ed Cliff at an informal meeting with the personnel of the Gold Beach District on the Ranger Station grounds at Gold Beach, Oregon October 2, 1980.

When I was Forest Supervisor, there was no logging to speak of. A few little portable mills cut for local consumption, but they were cutting mainly on private land. There were no timber sales at all in this District, as I remember, except one out of Port Orford. They had one commercial Douglas-fir sale, and we had a few sales on the Powers District, and a few pine sales over on the east side in the Illinois Valley and Swede Basin.

As a matter of fact, the timber down in this country was considered to be of low value and hardly worth protection. And people in this country wanted to burn it all off to make pasture. Well, in Coos County too, especially after the Forest was cut-over. This was a big controversy. Fire -- this Forest had a long history of incendiarism and heavy fire losses beginning during pioneering days and extending all through this period of time until about 1940. I was down there helping fight fire in 1936 and was also on the Forest helping fight the big Chetco Fire in 1938. Then the next year they decided to change leadership and sent me down here as Forest Supervisor.

Q: Well, what were your first impressions, did you go out, up the Chetco?

A: Oh, yes, we were up there yesterday. Well, there have been tremendous changes, of course, in the access; there are roads all over. You are getting a good network of roads, and the roads that we were on, if they're representative, they're built to a good standard. They're well maintained. The timber activities are being conducted in a very professional manner. You are getting good regeneration. Some of the older cutovers weren't regenerated so well, but that is being corrected. With the procedures they're using now, the site preparation and use of herbicide spraying to set back brush growth, and planting immediately after cutting, your timber management looks good to me, both on this side of the mountain and over on the east side. I was very favorably impressed with what I've seen so far on both sides. Well, I can recognize some old mistakes. Some of those were made when I was Chief of the Forest Service.

Q: What were your years here, Ed, on the Forest?

A: '39 to '41. I left here right after Pearl Harbor Day. That day, Pearl Harbor Day, was December 7, and I left the end of that month. The transfer was all set up.

Q: And you went where?

A: Fremont National Forest at Lakeview. I was just a young guy at that time, and I was 29 when I was made Supervisor here. I wasn't trained as a control expert especially or in improvement work, as I had a forestry degree, but my experience was mainly in range and wildlife work. I was a Wildlife Staff Officer in the Regional Office for 5 years before coming here. I got to tell you, by the way, I'm a Utah State Aggie too. (Note: The District Ranger is a Utah State alumnus). I was an Assistant Ranger on the Wenatchee National Forest starting in 1931. And that's one of my favorite places. Nothing like the Leavenworth Ranger District in the Wenatchee because that's where I got started in my professional career but I soon got sidetracked from that and they put me in charge of Wildlife. I was the first Wildlife Staff Officer in the Regional Office. This was when we were having some big game problems in Oregon and Washington

involving over-population of the deer and elk mainly on the East side, and the Forest Service started employing people to work on wildlife. I was not a trained wildlife professional but I'd had some background training that made it possible for me to work in that field. When I was there I was young and they put me and some of the other young men on the Regional Service of Supply fire crew, and they dispatched us to all the big fires in the region where the fires got beyond the Forests' ability to control and where they needed help. So for about 5 years I got dispatched to most of the big fires in the Region.

I got down here in 1936 when they had the big emergency the year that Bandon burned. I went through Bandon the night it burned, with several bus loads of fire fighters trying to get down to Carpenterville to fight a big fire that was burning in that area. That time the Forest Service was fighting fires in the Forest Service Protective area and the State of Oregon and the Coos Bay Protective Association were fighting the other fires and most of these big fires were on the state and private lands.

There had been a period of very dry weather -- people started burning slash and setting land-clearing fires all up and down the coast and then they got east winds which blew these fires out of control. There were literally hundreds of fires running wild between Coos Bay and the California line. It was a real holocaust and Bandon got caught in one of these east winds that picked up slash burning fires and pushed them right down to the beach --- burning the whole town level. I think this was September 26, 1936. I was there that night with a bunch of fire fighters trying to get through after it cooled down some. I'll never forget the people trailing out of there on the highway carrying packs on their backs and bundles of things they had picked out -- they literally lost everything. It was a sad scene to look at. Pictures of complete dispair.

When the fire cooled down, we got the trucks to Bandon, and there was not much to do there; the fire line was the ocean. It actually burned cars driven to the beach to try to save them. We picked our way through the ruins of Bandon and continued on down there to Gold Beach and we set up camp just across the highway in a former CCC Camp. We used that as

a headquarters. There were several other crews in here that had been dispatched to the fire and my job was Transportation Officer -- to dispatch trucks, men, and material to the various fires. The emergency got so big up north that the State and Associations couldn't handle it and they called on the Forest Service to take it over.

Costs were great, so we assumed the responsibility of managing the whole campaign from here to Coos Bay. We moved up to Coquille, set up headquarters, and I found myself in charge of the entire Service of Supply operation on this whole fire front. We rented a suite of offices in the top of the Coquille Bank and rented a big warehouse that covered nearly half a block, the first order for groceries was about $150,000 as I remember it. That would buy a lot of groceries in those days -- not very much now, but it would buy an awful lot then. We brought CCC camps (men) from all over the northwest and hired pickup fire crews wherever possible to man these various fires. We took action on fourteen or 15 major project fires and a lot of little ones and organized the "Town Defense Group" that built fire lines around Coquille,

North Bend, Coos Bay and Myrtle Point and all the other towns which were threatened.

We lost a few houses on the outskirts of some of these communities. This campaign went on until about Thanksgiving. It was a prolonged campaign. Because of this I gained somewhat of a reputation of being a fireman but I really didn't want to be a fireman. I wanted to attend to my other duties.

Then I got sent down here on the Big Chetco fire in '38 and performed somewhat the same kind of duties on that fire. That was the first large fire that was supplied primarily by dropping supplies from airplanes with parachutes. The parachutes were made out of burlap wool sacks -- wool sack material, and we flew off the Gasquet and the back parts of this fire were supplied by aerial drop. It was the biggest operation of that kind up until then. We didn't have the smokejumpers in full operation at the time. It was still experimental. This was a tough, expensive fire and there were others -- it was a bad summer for lightning fires on the Siskiyou. After that summer, the decision was made to make the change in leadership. The Regional Forester put the finger

on me and asked me if I would like to go to Grants Pass and be the Forest Supervisor. Well, I said, "Yes, I'd welcome that chance." So I came down in the spring of '39 and was here for a three-year period.

The Siskiyou had a bad history of incendiarism -- during the depression years -- and people lit fires to get work and for other reasons. This was considered to be one of the worst fire forests in the whole Western United States at the time and history proved it. And you can see the scars yet, in the back country, of these repeated burns.

My instructions were to come down here and get on top of the fire business. It was a pretty big order. This country was pretty inaccessible -- there was no road up the Rogue. There was a road up Hunters Creek and you could drive up to Wildhorse. A connecting road was cut through to Pistol River. We had the CCC camps -- they had been in here 5 or 6 years and they were starting the access systems around various parts of the forest.

Up at Agness, they set up a CCC camp. All of the materials and equipment and supplies for that CCC camp were barged up the river -- and these river barges were towed by river boats. Even tractors were barged up to Agness to build the roads. Most material and equipment was barged up there during high water. The Forest Service established the CCC camp and started the road between Agness and Illahe. Over the top, they built both ways, from the Agness side, or the Illahe side and from Southfork of the Coquille to connect up with the Powers District. It was about 1937 or '38 that they broke through on that route and that was the first time you could drive to Agness. So you see, conditions were quite different, there was no timber sale activity at all to speak of. There were a few peckerwood mills around here cutting lumber for local use but they were getting it from these nearby private lands. I remember we made one sale up out of Port Orford, right near the highway, a clearcut sale. Picked up some of the best Douglas-fir and as I recall, it sold for $1.50 a thousand. That was the only sale on this (the coast) side of the mountain that I can remember. We had some small pine sales over in the Illinois Valley and on the Galice District. They wouldn't touch the fir. It was

supposed to be old , brushy, defective, inferior kind of fir. It had that reputation, and so did the timber over here. People in those days were trying to convert the timberland along the coast into grazing land. There was a lot of sentiment for "light burning," slash and burn clearing and this was encouraged by the Oregon State College and the Extension Service. People could see no future raising or protecting timber in this area as it was a long way from market -- so there was a lot of sentiment for "light burning." This also was true in Coos County. On cutover lands, the Oregon State College and the Extension Service were promoting the seeding of grasses to create pastures to provide an annual income. Farmers and others who owned these lands thought it better to get an annual income than to wait for a long time to get income from another crop of timber. This was a crucial period from that standpoint. Prior to the time I came, the Forest Service took the responsibility for protecting this private land strip between the forest boundary and the ocean in Curry County. We were responsible for protecting all this outside land. The year that I came here, that was discontinued because the public relations were so bad over the conflict with the light

burners. There were some leading citizens who were arrested for setting fires and the feeling was very bad all along the coast -- a very tense situation between us and the citizens and that included many very substantially responsible citizens. They couldn't see any future in forestry. With all of our timber resources locked up, without road access, this was the picture.

Well, the state or the Coos-Curry Fire Protection Association took over the state and private protection in 1939 so I didn't have to contend with that problem. In '39 when I came here, the old Gold Beach District -- it was called the Chetco District -- extended from the California line clear up north to the Sixes. There was a separate District at Agness because of the inaccessibility, and then we had the Port Orford District with headquarters at Powers. We had responsibility for the Gasquet District, which included the Smith River drainage. It is now part of the Six Rivers National Forest. We had the Galice and Illinois Valley Districts -- we had six Districts. We also protected all of the intermingled O&C lands before the land exchange was made to consolidate the O&C and National Forest lands. At that time, we

claimed a million and three quarters acres in the National Forest area. We claimed the O&C lands as part of that although we weren't selling timber or managing them, just protecting them.

There's been changes in that respect and there's been phenomenal changes, unbelieveable changes, in the access, and in the harvesting program. From just a few million board feet a year, at very low prices, as I said, we sold prime Douglas-fir for $1.50 and we were selling sugar pine on the east side for $4.00 and Ponderosa Pine for $2.50 to $3.00 a thousand, and you know what the prices are now.

The highest price for timber was for dead and down Port-Orford-white-cedar on the Powers District -- we had put an embargo on the sale of green Port-Orford-cedar until we could study the whole situation and determine what to do with the remaining Port-Orford-white-cedar. We would sell dead-and-down and we were getting around $19 a thousand for it. There was a little portable mill owner who would go out and scrounge around and pick up snags and down trees and make them into Port-Orford-cedar lumber.

The Port-Orford-cedar resource had been pretty badly depleted on the private lands, first by cutting for Japanese Export before World War II and secondly, it was the prime material to make storage battery separators. There were no good substitutes up until about 1940. Then they also made venetian blinds and arrowwood, arrow stock from Port-Orford-cedar. They soon found substitutes for, and even better materials for battery separators and by that time, the Port-Orford-cedar resource, except in the National Forest, was pretty well shot.

One job that the Regional Forester gave me was to study the Port-Orford-cedar situation and make recommendations for management policy for this species. I studied it from the northern limits to the southern limits in California and made a report with recommendations on management policies for Port-Orford-white-cedar on the National Forest.

If I wanted to get something done like making a study for the Kalmiopsis Wild area, I had to do it myself, and I did. I made the first survey and the first report for that area, and got the area set up eventually. It makes me a little angry now when

people say that I wasn't interested in Wilderness. We had a total -- I counted up yesterday, we had a total of about 22 permanent full-time positions on the whole Siskiyou Forest including clerks, but excluding CCC foreman and road maintenance and construction personnel. If you added them in there might have been as many as 40 permanent full-time employees. You've got that many on this District, I think.

At this station, this office was here but it has been enlarged. That was a protective assistant house and the very outstanding Ranger's house was here. We built the bunk house when I was Supervisor -- this building in front of us wasn't here -- we had the warehouse. I thought, and I still think that this is one of the nicest Ranger stations in the whole Region. We were especially proud of this one -- we had other good stations around too.

Now, I'm trying to think of some of the assistants -- there was a man named Cecil Owens here -- anybody remember Owens? He was the Protective Assistant. Ed Marshall had a seasonal packer -- we had a pack string on every District and we had over a hundred

pack and saddle stock on the Forest to service the trail crews, and to fight fires and that sort of thing. We had a Regional Remount Station over in the Illinois Valley where we kept a bunch of pack and saddle stock that was available to be sent to other Forests in the Region if needed. Ed had a seasonal assistant, this man named Owen, and I was hoping I'd see him here.

Bob Ruth, now you know Bob Ruth. He's in the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station -- he's a silviculturist and he was stationed here as one of the firemen. Up on Mount Boliver -- that was not in this District, we had Roy Silen, he's now the eminent geneticist for the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station. All around the Forest we had some other pretty good people, too. Two of them became Deputy Chiefs of the Forest Service and before that they were Regional Foresters. Ed Marshall became Chief of State and Private Forestry in the Portland Office. Gail Baker down at Gasquet became Assistant Chief of Fire Control in Portland and we had some other very good people.

These were exciting days, they were days of transition. We really broke the back of the fire incendiarism. The last year that I was here we had practically no fires and no incendiary fires and I think we burned around 36 acres in the third year, and we've never had a bad incendiary fire problem since. Of course, that is due not only to the activities of the Forest Service but to a complete change in the economic climate. The war came along, war industries employed people, a lot of the young people went to the armed services. When they came back, the timber industry had moved into Curry County and boomed over in Josephine County and there was a complete change of the social and economic situation in this part of the county. Appreciation grew of the value of the timber resource and of other multiple resources down here, and so there has been a complete turnaround and a great change, an enormous change. It's hard to visualize what has happened in places like Brookings and Gold Beach. Brookings was a ghost town. In '39, the lumber mill had closed down and left that town stranded and just a bunch of shacks -- there were hardly any people there -- it was a depressed, desolate community, now look at it. Are there any changes? Yes. Enormous changes.

Back in the Forest, I think the changes that occurred and are occurring are all to the good. I like what you're doing -- what I've seen so far in the way of getting harvests and regeneration and conversion of some of these old brush fields. There's good soil resources in many parts of the Forest and they were not being used -- the Forest wasn't productive. It was a brush patch -- they called it the Siskiyou Brush Patch -- and I made the boys quit calling it that because I said "there are resources here, and the potential's here, but we shouldn't be negative about it -- we should be positive about these things." They stopped calling it the Siskiyou Brush Patch within my ear shot -- well it isn't a brush patch; it's a great Forest. It's a great Forest, and you haven't even begun to scratch the potential yet. You shouldn't be satisfied until you get all these lands producing at their full potential. You've got great opportunities.

Well, it's a privilege to get back here. I'm really thrilled. I've been working real hard, refighting these fires and rebuilding these roads -- it's kind of fun to do it. I really welcome the chance to get

up into your District now and see some of the things you're doing.

After I was transferred to Washington, I didn't forget the Siskiyou. I helped get the legislation through that changed the boundary on the Rogue River Corridor and supported the activities for acquiring the private lands along that corridor, which I think is a major accomplishment of public benefit. I was involved in the exchange of O&C lands which was inevitable. I kind of hated to give up the part of the Forest that included O&C lands but we had to trade off in order to get consolidation, but I guess in the long run, that was a good move. I lobbied for money for roads, such as your Agness-Corridor road, and I'm not sure that was a good idea. I had mixed sentiments about that. One of the most enjoyable trips in this whole area was the boat ride up and down the river. That road kind of spoiled that. Granted, we needed access into the country back of this first high ridge so I had mixed sentiments. Professionally, I think it's a needed thing and I hope it hasn't done too much damage to the aesthetics. It has helped button up, tie things together. When that road became a certainty, or it looked like it was a certainty, the

Forest Service closed down the Agness District and added it to this District. Then Chetco was made a separate District. The Chetco District was a separate District for many years prior to 1937 and then it was added to this (Gold Beach) District. After the Agness Road became a reality, it again became the Chetco District. The Agness District had a long history, an interesting colorful history, lots of interesting people up there, and it was a District on this Forest from the time it was organized until it was joined just a few years ago with the Gold Beach District. George Morey was the Protective Assistant up at Agness and he had previously been at Galice. I'm looking forward to seeing George -- hope to meet him while I'm here. There's hardly anybody left in the Forest Service who worked on the Siskiyou when I was here. I was about the youngest full-time employee on the force -- except some of the girls. They're all retired, or dead, or have moved on. Many of the people I used to work with in the communities, they're gone too. I miss them. I met a few -- there's still a few here -- they were tough, and they're surviving. But the country itself, I'm happy to see. Happy to see it's in good hands and that you're doing the kind of job that I think you'll be

proud of. I recognize some mistakes. We've made some mistakes -- we're rectifying them and it looks pretty good what you're doing, so far. I'm speaking not of your District yet, but I think I'll probably find the same things. Well, that's all I'm going to say. I'll answer any questions if anybody has some.

Q: During your time in Washington, Ed, what legislation or programs or whatever might you have been involved with that you're most proud of?

A: That's a hard one to answer because I've been involved in a lot of legislative things.

Q: What were some of the big national issues?

A: The big national issues -- I was in on all of the discussions, hearings, and the controversies over the Wilderness Bill. We testified in favor of the Wilderness Bill after it was amended a few times so that we could support it. I personally testified for the Wilderness Bill. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Bill -- I testified for the inclusion of the Rogue River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. I'm kind

of proud of that one. We, the Forest Service had most of the rivers that were designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers on the original passage of the Act. Later, they've added some study rivers and some other rivers.

The Scenic Trails Act was another one. The Multiple Use Mining Act was passed and I had a lot to do with administering it -- also getting its passage. That was when I was Assistant Chief. I was Assistant Chief for 10 years in charge of National Forest Activities before I became Chief and I was involved in all of the discussions and controversies over log exports and timber pricing and road standards and you name it.

Some of the other major legislation -- of course, I was involved every year in appropriation hearings for our regular appropriations for road and trail authorizations, and all of those things. I had the satisfaction of seeing our appropriations grow, and especially some of our lesser-funded activities like wildlife and recreation grow from practically nothing to fairly substantial programs. We were seeking to get balanced use in our programs. We were accused

of being timber-minded. In fact, we were working as hard as we could to get balanced activities and this required getting more money and more financial support for things like wildlife and watershed management. I started the program for expanded employment of landscape architects. They helped plan the resource development work, timber sales layouts and things of that kind. This was done in an effort to make sure that we were doing a job as well as we could without destroying important recreation and scenic assets and to get away from some of the bitter criticism we were getting over clearcutting -- cutting in square patches instead of patches that were more compatible -- and today the Forest Service is a major employer of landscape architects. After I retired the American Society of Landscape Architects made me an honorary member -- and I'm proud of that, too.

I'm trying to think of some of the other legislation. Many of these major acts were passed around 1952 to '72 and you can be sure I was right in the middle of them, one way or the other.

Q: What kind of lobby did the mining industry have during the Multiple Use Mining Act?

A: Well, as a matter of fact, they supported us. I don't know if you know the situation. It was pertinent to this country, but under the old 1872 Mining Act, a miner could go out and find mineral, or trace of mineral, and locate a claim or any number of claims, and stake them out. If they did the assessment work, they could hold them against all comers, including the government. If they didn't do their assessment work, they still held them unless they were challenged by somebody -- somebody might jump them, but these claims became permanent -- what would you call it?

Q: In-claims?

Q: Patented land?

A: Well, they weren't all patented -- some of them were patented eventually but they became permanent problems as far as our ability to manage the lands was concerned, became permanent impediments, so to speak. And they never got erased completely, unless they were contested legally and declared null and void. They just went on and on and the government couldn't rightly exercise any jurisdiction over the surface

of these claims. They were permanent impediments to management and a lot of them were fraudulent. A lot of them never panned out -- they were just abandoned. Somebody could come and pick them up -- heirs could pick them up. It was a mess, and many of the claims were being used for non-mining purposes -- they were being converted to summer homes, and resorts, and there were houses of ill-repute on some of them. Well, it was an embarrassment to the mining industry -- the use of claims for non-mining purposes. There was a lot of adverse publicity about this, and we contested the fraudulent and improperly used claims wherever we could but there were so many of them that we couldn't contest them all at once. The mining industry said, "Well, we'll work with you on the revision." There was an effort made to abandon or get rid of the 1872 Mining Act completely. Well, the mining industry fought that hard and they had a strong lobby and they were successful in fighting off any attempts to abolish the 1872 Mining Act -- they still have avoided that.

They said "We don't like this fraudulent use of mining claims any more than you do. A true miner doesn't do that and we don't support that, so we'll help you,"

so it was a sort of a compromise. The American Forestry Association stepped in as an intermediary and helped. We sat down as a committee, you might say, and drafted the Multiple Use Mining Act which made it possible for us to get rid of the abandoned claims completely, clear the books on them, and anybody that had a claim that they thought was a legitimate claim, could step forward and declare it and they had to provide some proof of legitimacy. On any claims where they didn't do this -- the government reclaimed the right to manage the surface resources. We recovered the authority to manage surface resources on millions of acres of mining claims that heretofore had been an impediment to our management, and this I think was a rather significant step forward. It solved a lot of problems. I don't know if you're still doing this, or whether you've got them all cleared up -- maybe somebody could tell me that, but for several years this was the major activity. We had to survey the areas and advertise that we were going to clear up the claim questions on certain areas -- give people a chance to come in and assert their rights and then we went through a process which eventually led to a declaration of the right of the government to manage the surface

resources. On these mining claims where there were no asserted rights, we had the right to manage the surface. I think it was a major step forward. It was a method of attacking a very bad problem. It was especially bad in some of the areas where we had legitimate mining activities, here, in California, in the Colorado Rockies, the Black Hills, and many other places.

Q: What Senators or Congressmen that you've worked with have been most sympathetic or knowledgeable about Forest Service needs?

A: That's a long list. I've had many strong friends and supporters in Congress. Some of them at times were strong supporters and some of them, if they didn't think things were going right, didn't hesitate to criticize either. Wayne Morse of Oregon, was one example. When he was running for reelection one time and the timber industry was working on him to get more sales and lower stumpage rates and do something about Jap exports, Morse was bitterly critical of the Forest Service and me personally, in some of his speeches (Don't put this in the paper, please). Afterwards, I got to know Morse better and we became

very close friends and he was a strong supporter; up to the time he died, he was a very strong supporter and I appreciated it. He was kind of a powerful influence, but at one time he was not, and maybe we deserved the criticism, -- I'm not saying that we didn't.

Q: Ed, were you on the Forest during World War II when the incendiary bomb fell?

A: No, I had left here, but I knew of it, and one other incendiary bomb which was "planted" in the United States. There may have been more -- but one fell on the Fremont Forest (where I went). It laid in a campground area over winter. When the warm spring days opened up, a family went up there, and the kids got to playing with this device, it exploded and killed several of them. That was the only fatality from a Japanese Bomb in this country, as far as I know.

Your question about relationships with Congress. Dellenback was the strongest supporter from this District. With John Dellenback, we had strong support and often some of our strongest supporters were some

of our strongest critics at times, too. I had an off-and-on relationship with Senator McGee of Wyoming. He turned out to be one of our bitterest critics when he thought it was to his political advantage.

Q: What would you say the greatest problem that the Forest Service as an agency has right now in the next 3 to 5 years?

A: Well, I don't know. I think we've always had problems, and the problems change and the reflection of things are quite different. I think your biggest challenge is to make this thing we call Multiple Use really work and not be dragged down the primrose trail of ultra-protectionism -- we believe in preservation of our treasures and our outstanding scenic resources. I think the Forest Service has got to fight for middle ground of good sound well-balanced multiple use programs. If you're going the other way, you can get swallowed up.

Q: Do you see things swinging that way towards protectionism?

A: Well, they have, yeah. Yes, they have been.

Q: Do you still see it going that way or --

A: I don't know. I think it's somewhat settled down after RARE-II but don't kid yourself, this isn't going to be the end of the controversies over wilderness and preservation. I started RARE I -- I thought that was going to be the solution, but preservationists took all they could get under RARE I and then they come along with RARE II and get more. No, I think the great challenge to the Forest Service is to do a good professional job and continue to put a high precedence on public service, do an honest job, maintain our integrity, and go right down the line on good balanced multiple use. That's the big challenge.

Q: One more and maybe we can wrap this up, Ed. At Washington, or the national level, what is the reputation and the feelings that people in Washington have towards the Forest Service as an agency compared to other government agencies?

A: The Forest Service is considered in Washington, in the bureaucracy and in Congress as the outstanding civilian organization in government, even today.

Q: I always get the feeling we're the step-child when it comes to the Park Service Bill?

A: I wouldn't have any inferiority complex about that.

Q: No, the feelings of the people in Washington, I was going to say.

A: No, no.

Q: The Park Service seems to get a lot of dollars for what they do and --

A: The Park Service is a good organization and they have good programs. Generally our relationships with the Park Service have been good. We have worked together on a lot of things. The only time we really part company with the Park Service is when they try to steal the "family jewels." We part company and we lose some of those fights, and we've won some. We won the Oregon Dunes fight. They wanted that and we got it.

Starting up Hunter Creek with Ed Cliff, Pete Brost, Dick Kerns, Bill Covey. (10/2/80)

Ed Cliff: Talking about the wild area on the Kalmiopsis, I drew the boundary to keep it away from these planned roads and mechanized trails, just off the ridges. Now, really, I believe strongly that a boundary of a Wilderness area or natural area, is best located on topographic lines, so you can identify them. The lines that I drew on Kalmiopsis just cut across the heads of the drainages. They were not any good as administrative lines but I drew them deliberately to keep them away from the mechanized trail. By our standards then, we didn't think that mechanized equipment should be allowed in or near a wilderness area. I still think a road is a poor boundary because if you've got a road here the area right next to it ain't wilderness. It isn't wilderness until you get away from the influence of the road. I don't like roads as wilderness boundaries but sometimes you can't avoid it, but I feel if you do need to use a road, you ought to back away a prescribed distance from the road so you could identify a line a hundred yards or so away from the road as a wilderness boundary -- something like that. This roadside strip isn't wilderness by any stretch of the imagination.

Bill Covey: Oh, yeah, our newspaper editor thought that was outstanding. He said he's the kind of guy who thought that wilderness should be used by everybody and even if you couldn't or didn't want to climb down there in it, you could still drive your car around and look at it. So he thought that was an outstanding idea.

The following remarks were made by Ed Cliff at a dinner given in his honor at Gold Beach, Oregon, October 2, 1980.

Pete Brost: The first thing we'll have a few words, and that's very few, too, from George Morey.

George Morey: Glad to hear from you. I had planned on perhaps introducing Ed and let him have his say first, but when I came in here this evening and mentioned one or two things before we got through shaking hands, he took a shotgun and just blew these notes all to pieces. So, I'm going to have my say and then I might even have to go outside to get the last word. But I would like to reminisce just a little bit about the good ole' days. First I want to say that it certainly is a pleasure to be back and to be able to meet and to fellowship with a fellow that we knew in that long, long ago. Ed Cliff, he was a colorful forester, contributed an awful lot to the organization. After Ed went to Washington, one thing I noticed in particular, whenever anything special came up in your life, why he always had time to write you a note.

I really don't know what I'm doing up here this evening. I didn't volunteer for this job, I just had it handed to me by Pete Brost. My remarks spring forth from a very poor memory, and there is bound

to be a lot of deviation from reality -- a long way from the truth in other words. Let's just remember, though, that 40 years is a long time to try to remember details. Those of you who know me, though, and heard me try to make a point, you probably know that a good many times that point winds up in the twilight zone.

My first meeting with Ed was on July 23, 1939. I didn't know that he was the Supervisor then, but he had been Supervisor for two or three months. We were trying to control a 2,000-acre fire down on the Horseshoe Bend of the Rogue River and it was spreading in all directions and it also crossed the river. That was the first time that they'd known that a fire would cross the Rogue River but it did. The guard station had been burned by that time. At about 10 p.m. that night on July 23, Ed and 2 or 3 budding young foresters showed up at the station and they were on their way to the fire and they stopped to get flashlights and also a ration of two. It was 17 miles down to the fire, and 12 miles of that was by very steep trail. We soon had them outfitted with the old type barrel flashlights -- some of you fellows probably have never seen one -- they contain three

cells and they hung on your belt here -- you run a cord up through your shirt and everything -- elastic band around your head and a light sat up here. When you turned it on you just hoped that it would come on and light your way. Sometimes they did.

We also gave them a ration. It was one of the old iron rations -- that's something that some of you have never seen. It supplied 3 meals -- each pack supplied 3 meals -- and anyone who's never lived on the old iron rations has certainly missed something. After about 5 days, that fire was controlled and nearly all of the crew -- I don't know what become of Ed then, I never did know, but they went over to the Powers District on the Bryant Logging Fire that was going merrily on its way over on Wooden Rock Creek. One thing we did wonder, every one of us, when we found out that Ed was the Supervisor of the Siskiyou National Forest, was how a man as young as he was could become Supervisor. I asked his daughter and I thought that she told me he was 27 at the time but Ed tells me tonight he was 29 so he's picked up a couple of years on me there someplace.

Now I'd like to draw just a little comparison of what Bill mentioned here a moment ago about the difference of what it was like in those days and what it is today. Forty years ago as soon as the fire season was over in the fall, everybody was laid off. There usually was a District Ranger, a Protective Assistant, that's the FMO now, and possibly a junior forester -- not in all Districts -- was all that would be the crew for the winter. There was only one engineer on the Forest at that time -- just one -- and the old fellow lives in there yet, Don Cameron. We thought that's all we needed.

The vehicles consisted of a pickup truck that was assigned a Ranger, a 1½ ton truck for 3 or possibly 4 men, as the case may be. Generally at least one of the men drove his own car to work nearly every day, or used it for the project work, and he was reimbursed for that at 5¢ per mile. One year we were assigned a truck some time in the middle of the summer that was bought from fire fighting funds. There was only one thing -- the stipulation was that it should not be driven more than 200 miles on any other project during the month. It could be run as long as you needed it on fire, but other projects -- no. Just

200 miles. In our devious minds though we soon figured out how to disconnect that speedometer and sometimes we had to pool our money and buy a little bit of gas to keep that truck going. But we did have another vehicle -- I hope that the statute of limitations has run out -- I'd be in the same fix some of our Congressmen have.

These arrangements existed until up as far as 1953 -- there's a lot of other things I could tell you there, but we're filling time with that. Carlin Jackson and I worked here on this District and we laid out sales on the Elk River and out on the other creek country,we also tag-lined the roads into those areas and we tag-lined the present South Bank Road that goes into Agness. I'm glad that I lived when I did -- I can tell you that -- and I'm glad that I worked for the Forest Service during my career. Working habits have changed a lot since those days. In that time we left the station at 7:30 in the morning and we didn't return a bit before 5:30 in the evening. There were no coffee breaks, and I believe that the things that I would miss the most as far as the Forest Service is concerned if I were back there working would be the closeness, the

fellowship, and the real friendship that we developed there together. We knew everyone, the names of their children, their family -- even knew what they had for breakfast. I was at the Ranger Station just the other day and I was talking to one of the old timers that happened to be left up there and a fellow walked by. I didn't know who he was, and my friend didn't know either. He said, "Hell, I don't know who he is -- he's only been here two months." I'll tell you, I would miss that very much because I do require a lot of fellowship with people.

Now, while we were on the Galice District, we received an application from a young fellow -- this gets off the other subject just a little bit -- who wanted a summer job, and he penciled a note that came with the application. It's in Edna Morey's scrapbook -- she's kept scrapbooks ever since before we were married 50 years ago -- and whenever I want to write anything or talk about anything, I go to those scrapbooks -- but here's what it says: "I want to become a Forest Ranger. The first reason I want to be a Forest Ranger is that a Ranger is an adventurer, he's bronzed with the sun, his body is muscular and healthy from the great outdoors. His green uniform

blends with the great green of the trees. A Ranger presents a striking picture (I've got to capture that). He is a symbol of the dynamic work of forestry. Then, too, who wouldn't like to have a job where the full outdoors was your office, where the air is as sweet as a fresh cut apple, and the lakes are glittering at your feet and the roof was formed by the branches overhead. Sometimes the Ranger gallops to his post on horseback, and other times he depends on his trusty legs. This is no rocking chair job -- it's a job for a rugged man." I'd say that man just had a dream. This is a fact. Long before Ed ever came to the Forest Service -- that would have been before he even started going to school. Ed Cliff signed the large book that this information was all taken from. Loren Cooper composed it and Ed approved it.

But this particular one here, it's an examination that the Ranger had to take way back in those days. He had to do eight things. He had to identify 10 species of trees, he gave the common name, and if he could give the technical name and spell it right, his grade would be a little higher. Number two, he had to pull a tree that was 10" in diameter with an

ax and it had to strike and drive a peg in the ground at least 30' feet away, read the magnetic declination of the quadrant compass, pace a triangle, log it, and then compute the acreage, demonstrate the use of a 7' crosscut saw, explain what you would use to bake a batch of biscuits, build a campfire, and throw a pack on a mule, including food, ax, cooking equipment and a sack of oatmeal, secure it very tightly with a lash rope, top it off with a diamond hitch.

The above examination took three days to take and of these four men who took the examination, C. C. McGuire ws the only one that passed that examination at that time. But we do have one old gentleman here in this area -- I hope some of you get to meet him sometime -- Steve Curl who in 1915 walked over to the West Fork on the Cow Creek and caught the train into Grants Pass, took the examination, two or three days later he caught the train back down there, and walked back over the mountain, came back to his home, and he was assigned the Agness Ranger Station right after that. I remember him very well.

Ranger Curl, in 1918, gave 300 shots of vaccine serum for flu shots in the absence of a doctor here on the coast. He was the Ranger and he gave all those shots.

I'm glad that I had a career in the Forest Service and I wish I was working yet. As far as that goes, I'd like to do it again all over. One of the best memories is of the fellows we worked with and I'm glad there are a few of them left, and I'm very glad that Ed Cliff is among them. He was always a pleasure to know and to work with, Ed Cliff.

Ed Cliff: I appreciate your comments and the background you've given -- it was very appropriate. Pretty good description of a lot of the things in the Service. It was 50 years ago that I was in the Boise Forest with Charlie Connaughton who used to be Regional Forester here. Fifty years is 2/3 of the life of the Forest Service. I've seen a lot of changes and I've experienced a lot of the things that George talks about. George is an example of the class of men that we've had in this service and we still have some of them around. They were not professional foresters but worked with Forest Service as a career and they are the fellows that stayed on the District when the

professionals were transferred from place to place and they were men that made the Forest Rangers and the other professionals look good. They did much of the work and they provided continuity. They were really the backbone of the Forest Service. We still have some of these people. Thank God, they're a great asset to the Forest Service. Never saw a forestry school but they could teach most of the young folks that came out of forestry school a thing or two about how to get things done, how to live in the country, and get along. I pay tribute to this group of men -- I was out with one today, Dick Kerns. He is another one who has made a lot of Rangers and timber staff people and others look good.

I'm glad to greet two of my old friends who were not in the Forest Service but who worked with the Forest Service for years and years. One is Bob Knox who I met when I first came to this country, a little over 40 years ago -- Bob was the County Agricultural Extension Agent here, at a time when the timber industry -- we'd had the transitory industry -- they'd been timbering down in Brookings, they'd been timbering up in Sixes, but it missed this whole middle part of Curry County and the timber was not marketable

-- there was no market for it. It was a long ways from market and people in Curry County -- it was hard for them to see the value of timber -- they needed to make a living, they needed an annual income, they needed to pay the school teacher, and the tax collector. Bob Knox was trying to promote agriculture in this country in a way that would not jeopardize the opportunity for forestry. It was a time when there was some rather strong feelings and unhappiness between the local people who wanted to create pastures and build up a livestock industry and the foresters who wanted to protect everything from burning. The Forest Service, for just a few years prior to the time I came, had responsibility for protection of this big strip of country between the western boundary of the Siskiyou Forest and the coast. It was the BLM and private strip, and the Forest Service was trying to enforce fire regulations and fire laws on people who didn't necessarily want fire laws and fire regulations. Bob was right in the middle of all this trying to keep peace in the family. By the time I arrived on the scene, the Forest Service had gotten out of the protection on this largely privately-owned coastal strip in Curry County and so we managed to get together with quite a number of other citizens

and work things out. We decided that we better work together rather than fight each other and I rather treasure the times I spent with Bob Knox and I appreciate his viewpoints. He's contributed a great deal to this county. Since he got out of being County Agent, he's developed land, he's got a ranch, he is a Forest permittee, runs cattle on the Forest, he has sheep, he's got a resort and I don't know how many dollars in the bank but he's a successful man, and I sure appreciate seeing him.

The other one is Archie Anderson, who was born and raised over here, on the Illinois River at what we used to call the Anderson Ranch. It's where the suspension bridge goes across the river -- what do you call that ranch now? Caleb Ranch. Archie was one of the family that was born and raised out there on that ranch. He was 11 years old when the Forest Service was organized. He knew the earliest Rangers, and of course, the Supervisors. I think he knew Mel Lewis and Jess DeWitt, and some of the other old-timers -- I can't name them all -- the Rangers on that District.

Well, he spent his formative years down here in the Illinois, and then he emerged and got into logging. He had a partnership in a sawmill in the Illinois Valley and then he went into the lumber business at Lakeview and worked with the Forest Service there. He was there when I became Supervisor of the Fremont, and we had a very close friendship. And he was one of the best cooperators with the Forest Service that I know of. He deserves everything that he's made in this life. He's made it himself with his hard work and ingenuity, and good sense, and I don't think he went any further in school than you did, George. Maybe less. But he's a hell of a good guy. Both of these guys have got brand new wives since I knew them and look at them, that shows their good judgment. Well, it's good to see you all.

Most of the people I worked with have moved, some of them have died, and some of them I have just seen recently -- some of my old Rangers, of whom I'm very proud, Red Nelson, Ed Marshall, Gail Baker, and -- I see Boyd Rasmussen nearly every other week. We still play poker together every other week when we're both home -- which isn't very often. He became Director of BLM, and in the Forest Service, he was Regional

Forester and Deputy Chief. Red Nelson got to be Deputy Chief -- Kerm Linstedt, who was up at Agness, became an Assistant Regional Forester and then died at an early age, and Baker made good in the fire control business. Ed Marshall became Chief of State and Private Forestry in Region 6, and Loren Cooper, the only old-timer is still around. I'm proud of these guys. Most of them are still around. They're like you and me, George. They don't hike a trail quite as fast now but we all have a proud tradition together.

Coming back here, I fought fire in this country when it was tough going when we didn't have roads to go on. It was all trail. We just started aerial provisioning on the Big Chetco Fire which I helped fight in 1938. We were up there yesterday looking over that country.

As you know, there have been lots and lots of changes since we started utilizing the timber resources and developed the road network. The roads look good to me, standards are good, maintenance is good. It is good to see young reproduction coming in the cutovers and to see the care that's being taken now, in

harvesting timber, the recreation developments. The whole thing gives me pleasure and confidence in the future. I think the Forest Service is in good hands even though they've got kind of big, George. They don't know each other as well as we used to know each other, but I think the Forest Service is in real good hands. They're the same kind of people as we knew -- their jobs are a little different. But they're striving for the same things and they're doing things that we'd wished we could do but didn't have the means to do it with or we weren't as far advanced in transportation and development as they are today. I like to think that we laid the groundwork for what they're doing today and that they're laying the groundwork for even a better job and more intensive management for the benefit of people in the future. I think that's happening.

I'm like you, George, I kind of worry that the Forest Service is losing close intimate family relationships we've always enjoyed. You have more permanent employees on this Gold Beach District than we had on the whole Siskiyou Forest. When I was Supervisor, we didn't have permanent full-time lady clerks in the Ranger's offices or permanent full-time

assistants, or Assistant Rangers or staff people on the Districts. We had seasonal personnel. Probably more seasonals than you have. You've torn down a lot of the lookouts and guard stations that we built and manned for fire protection. You don't need them any more, but it's sort of sad to see them go. I get a little sentimental about them.

You must not forget that this country will burn, when it's in the right condition, and you've got more values involved now. You know, you've got more access, you've got more people up there prowling around, so I would urge that you not relax your vigilance on the protection front when you're going ahead on the development and management front.

Well, it's been a real thrill and a pleasure to get back. I've been back here a few times in the capacity of Assistant chief and Chief of the Forest Service in the past 20 years. Actually, I've been retired 8½ years from the Forest Service, but I managed to get back a few times and I've always kept my eye on the Siskiyou and have helped push things along the best I could from up front. This is home to me. The best National Forest is the first one on which

a person becomes Forest Supervisor, whether it's any good or not. This happens to be my first one and it's really a good one. It has a lot of potential. It hasn't been developed fully yet.

Well, I think that's enough. I've been talking to a lot of people and I repeat myself -- Bill is very patient -- he's listened to me talk and heard some of this before. But he'll soon be shed of me and then I'll go over and bother the boys on the Fremont. I'm going back there, and that was a great Forest, too. It is a different kind of a Forest, but it was and is a great Forest and it'll be like a homecoming over there, too, I'm sure. Then they're going to give me the opportunity to tell both the Supervisors and the Regional Forester -- how in the hell they ought to run their jobs. I don't know that I can give them much advice because I think they know what they're about, but, I might make a few subtle suggestions. Well, thanks so much. God Bless all of you.

Bill Covey: Ed spoke of the number of much more personnel on the Forest now than there was. When Ed took over the Forest here, there were 44 appointed people. In 1965,

that had grown to 160, and as of April this year (1980), on the Forest, there are 373 employees.

Those 45 included CCC foreman and truck drivers.
That's the permanent men, yeah.
That took quite a bit of research to get that and then I forgot it. I would like to tell these young foresters here that when they look around them and see the gray hair, and the wrinkles, and the white heads, that's just exactly what they're going to be in just a few years. Now, Doug Bright, the honorable District Ranger from the south of here is going to take the floor.

Doug Bright: Thank you.

Yesterday I had the opportunity of spending the day out in the field with Ed, kind of looked at some things, he rambled a little bit, and I really enjoyed it. Today the people in the office put together a map that shows the fires that were on the Chetco District in 1938, '39, '40, and '41 and '42, and we have here a copy of the fire reports, the correspondence that were logged with the fires, also have a picture here of your trusty steed that you

used at that time, or one similar, and the old narrow gauge truck that you used on the road. We also traced on here the route that you took yesterday so you can reflect on the --

You just about burned the whole damn District up here.

And you also made the front page of the local paper today, even though they kind of goofed up on what you were doing at that point in time --

Ed Cliff: Well, they made me the District Ranger down at Chetco -- that's the best appointment I've had yet. I've been trying to trade jobs with some of these young guys; now I'm going to hold to this one.

Well, this map shows the Cedar Camp or the Chetco Fire, which was one of the biggest in a decade or so, and one of the most expensive. That was in '38 and I was at the Long Ridge packers' station helping direct the fire strategy and the service of supplies of this fire. This was the one where we serviced most of the back areas on it by the dropping of supplies and material, food, and tools from aircraft using burlap parachutes -- parachutes made out of wool bags. It wasn't until after World War

II when we could get surplus military parachutes that we got around to using nylon or silk parachutes to drop cargo -- and then by that time we were dropping men also. The fire -- but that was in '38 -- that wasn't my fire. I just come up to help the boys out -- this was the fire, that made me a Forest Supervisor because they decided to change leadership after this '38 fire and this isn't criticism of my predecessor -- he was a good man -- but they decided they needed some younger people, so they sent me down here.

George mentioned Horseshoe Bend. At the same time we had a fire blown up on Frank Bryant's logging operation over in Wooden Rock Creek on Eden Ridge. Burned up his landing, and a lot of slash, some machinery, it was a dirty fire. That blew up while we was fighting the Horseshoe Bend and then there was another one over in the Powers District -- it started almost simultaneously -- just a little later. Then somebody touched off the Eagle Creek fire, which was an incendiary fire. We caught one of the local boys and hauled him into Grants Pass but the judge turned him loose because we couldn't prove that he set the fire.

The next year, we had the Little Chetco Fire, which was only 2,000 acres -- and that was the biggest fire in the Forest that year. George, I don't remember whether that was a lightning fire or man-caused (that was in 1940). Then in 1941, the third year I was here as Supervisor -- . We had changed our policies in dealing with local people, hiring local people, working with local people, and then in 1941 we didn't have any fires. That is, we didn't have any incendiary fires, and I think we burned a total of 36 acres all over the Forest. I'm quite proud of this, because what the Regional Forester sent me down here to do was to get on top of the fire situation -- and they haven't had any real bad campaigns since then.

Conditions have changed, the social and economic conditions have changed. People got employment, a lot of people went to the military, and moved out, and the industry came in -- a lot of differences -- and we got the smokejumpers to hit the back county fires fast.

Well, thanks for the map. This will be a good memento and I appreciate the book and the picture. I think

I'll just come and take possession of the Chetco District now that I'm officially appointed by the press. Thanks for this. I appreciate it all.

George Morey: Anyone else have anything? How about you, Pete? (Brost) -- the one that instigated this whole thing -- you ought to be able to finish it.

Pete Brost: George, I really hadn't figured on that part of it. I wrote the beginning but I didn't have an end.

Someone: Maybe we can get out of here without paying for this dinner.

Pete Brost: Bob, would you like to say anything this evening?

Bob Knox: Well, Ed brought back a good many pleasant memories. I want to give credit where credit is due. I think so far as this harbor is concerned, Ed provided the statistics that convinced Congress they'd better build this part of Gold Beach. It was based on the fact that the Forest Service -- the government owned most of the companies in the county -- and figuring for the few years that it did work, this was when the mills started to operate and the logging started down

here. As soon as we got barge transportation -- it was something like $11 cheaper than any other method, rails, combination of trucks and so on. At a subsequent hearing, we provided the information that, I think it's one ¼ of the stumpage values that might accrue to the fact that we have water transportation increased so that the 3 million dollar appropriation for this part was a good investment for the Forest Service. They more than got their money back during the time that the barge transportation operated on the harbor. The Army Engineers complained that this was an expensive harbor, far beyond the specification for additional expenditures. This harbor doesn't owe the federal government anything -- they more than got their money back out of it already. Ed was instrumental in providing the information necessary to get that appropriation -- by the way -- it was a new start, the only new start in the United States during a no-new start policy from the Army Engineers.

Another little hint that I thought might be of interest -- Harley Gardner -- I imagine some of you might have heard of him -- when the Forest Rangers were cracking down on the farmers and when the ranchers were trying to burn their range, he said,

"Well, I shouldn't get a permit. I'd be crazy if I got a permit and they can't catch me either. I can go out here in the hills and I can shoot an old doe. I can take 2 or 3 little jump traps and set it on the carcass, and catch me 3 or 4 buzzards. Then I'd get some of this pump wood and start 'em on fire, and tie a piece of this burning wood on each of the buzzards, and they'd scatter it all directions, and they wouldn't have any way of tracing who did it." It makes me think perhaps Ed was in on this.

The next instance I remember was the Indians up at Agness. They didn't like supervision very well, did they, Ed? So they -- somebody or maybe this boy who came, I think Glen Mitchell, yeah, Glen Mitchell, he brought in some detectives and he was trying to catch those Indians up there. So they were having lots of fun. One fire up there started and there were mule tracks, or horseshoe tracks that led from the fire, along the sand bar, and right up to a straight-up bluff -- this was up near Agness -- and then the Indians got up on the hill and they watched the detectives try to figure out where that fire setter came from and where he went. They'd come to this bluff and they knew darn well the mules couldn't

go up the bluff, but it so happens that the Indians had put on some horseshoes, put the back shoe on the toe and on the heel of the shoe and they walked along the sand bar and right up to this bluff, then took their shoes off and walked away. So they never knew who started that fire up there -- those detectives, they never did figure that one out.

Pete Brost: Thank you, Bob.

Art, would you add a word to that? (Archie Anderson said no.)

Well, that's all I have. Lynn, how about you?

I don't have anything to say -- if nobody else does -- have a good trip home. We appreciated you coming.

This is a portion of the trip with Ed Cliff on Friday, October 3rd from the Powers District and over Bear Camp to Grants Pass.

Ed Cliff: My feeling about the range resource here is that it is very marginal, it's transitory, and I don't believe it's worth pushing for greater range utilization because there are potential conflicts and ultimately I think range will be fading out of the picture almost completely. You can accommodate livestock of local farmers and ranchers in small numbers in places where it fits in, but in this kind of country and this kind of cover, the terrain, the loose soils, it's very difficult to have a viable range management program. The transitory nature, changing nature of the vegetation hardly justifies making a large effort just to utilize a few animal months of forage. It seems to me it would be much better to devote that resource to production of big game and use the vegetative resource for watershed protection. I think you can accommodate what you have now, but I'm an old range man and I just don't see much future in it. I think it's sort of a diminishing resource except for a few marginal operations.

Bill Covey: Well, we already have competition, of course, between the deer and elk for forage and they can interfere with production of timber, so if we push range (domestic animal management), we'd have an increased

competition in a lot of places, so I kind of agree with what you're saying.

Ed Cliff: Well, you see how the natural openings that were maintained by repeated fires are closing in to woody vegetation, brush, and then timber. It's obvious to me that a true range livestock operation can't really prevail very long. Incidentally, I'm glad to see the reintroduction of elk, Roosevelt elk in this country. I think that's an asset. They were a natural part of the fauna originally, and apparently had been eliminated from the Siskiyou over a long period of time. Now they're coming back and it was a thrill certainly to see one up at Quail Prairie the other day. I think this is an interesting development. Deer hunting was once my favorite sport but it doesn't interest me any more.

What's happened to the case of either sex hunting and the herd management concepts that the Forest Service worked so hard to get estabished?

Bill Covey: Well, they have either sex for elk for a limited period of time, but they have not inauguarated lately, at any rate, an either sex hunt for deer.

There's still quite a little feelings, strong feelings about shooting does, that would reduce the herd, and so forth. That's where they're at with that. I think generally the deer herds are not really causing any problem for us except in isolated areas such as Powers. We have some damage there and a little damage on Gold Beach, but the deer herds are not really causing us a lot of difficulty.

Ed Cliff: I noticed you're planting trees, putting these plastic shields over them to reduce the damage to the seedlings.

Bill Covey: Yeah, the Vexar tubing we're putting those in areas that are primarily readily accessible to game or their easy passageway along the roads and then in some clearcuts where they've demonstrated that they have, you know, been a lot of use, and we also use Vexar tubes for gopher damage prevention, too.

Ed Cliff: Rabbits, primarily?

Bill Covey: Rabbits and gophers both. Particularly gophers in higher elevations. We have a lot of trouble with them in some of those, particularly the old white

fir stands, or true fir stands where we've clearcut them and the gophers have built up their population pretty heavy.

Ed Cliff: I thought gophers did damage mainly to the under ground portions -- do they girdle above ground?

Bill Covey: They girdle above ground, too, yeah. Particularly when there is snow on the ground, they usually travel right under the edge of the snow.

Ed Cliff: Yes, I understand that. Well, let's turn the machine off.

The following is Ed Cliff's overview of his visit to the Siskiyou. Saturday, October 4, 1980.

Ed Cliff: Well, Bill, this has been a very good experience, being able to come back here after nearly 40 years and to go over some of the ground that I went over that long ago when I was Forest Supervisor. It's an emotional experience, to see the country and to compare it with what it was during a time that we didn't have road access to the Forest except in a very few places and when the major activities were custodial in nature, primarily consisting of fire protection, and development. Without the three C's program and some other emergency work programs, the development phase of our work would have been very small in the late 1930's and early 1940's. Now there's a great contrast, as you well know, but the contrast to me is striking because I've seen both ends of the spectrum.

Some of the major changes and shifts that are obvious include the great change in the accessibility of the country -- you have a network of roads now that was non-existent before, and by and large, I think your road system is very good. Excellent. I think the standards are generally good, they're adequate, but I don't think your roads are overbuilt. You are giving a lot of attention, and I think this is good,

to drainage and stabilization of the cut and fill banks. You're paying a lot more attention than we used to about locations of slump areas to avoid slides -- although we were aware of that and had some bad experiences on the few roads we were building in 1939 to 1941. The Transportation system has been made possible by the utilization of timber and this has opened up the country to utilization of timber and other resources to a greater extent than we hardly ever dreamed of. What has happened here has confirmed my faith in the Siskiyou -- that it did have important forest resources and great potential -- potential far beyond what was ever thought about when the Siskiyou was known as the Siskiyou Brush Patch. I didn't like that and I think what you're doing now has confirmed my visions of what this Forest could be. You haven't reached full potential yet because you still have a considerable area of unproductive land, non-productive land, which is supporting brush but I'm glad to see that you're gradually converting some of the brushfields on the better soils to timber. This is a long hard job.

The Siskiyou is not a easy country. The climate is severe at times, it's on the dry side of the Douglas-

fir Region. Problems of regeneration are difficult. The problems of protection are still difficult and potentially you could repeat some of the bad experiences we've had in the past with severe fire losses because of the very nature of the country. Some of the soils are poor but you have good soils as well, and the production of the 170 to 190 million board feet of timber a year is far greater than most people visualized.

It seems unrealistic when you compare it with what we were doing in 1940 and '41, and what we visualized might be done at that time. Again it bears out the confidence that some of us had in the Siskiyou as a reservoir of great natural resources.

I've always liked this Forest, too, because of the variety of the vegetation, the richness of the flora, not only the timber, but the lesser vegetation. It is a botanical paradise, an interesting area in which to work in forest management. I have been favorably impressed by the regeneration that you're getting on most of your cut-over areas. Now I know that this is not a accident and you've gone through a learning process, this is obvious. Some of the older clearcuts

didn't regenerate as well as they should and you still have some problems of getting satisfactory stocking on some areas which were cut a number of years ago, but your present procedure of making pre-sale analyses, interdisciplinary analyses, using the skills and knowledge of soils people, landscape architects, biologists, horticulturists, foresters and others, including logging, engineering experts, seems to be paying off. I think one of the keys to your success is your slash disposal by prescription, using lighter burns, avoidance of destroying soil nutrients. It seems to me this is the key to the current success of getting regeneration. I frankly am very favorably surprised by what you've been able to do because sitting back in Washington when I was in the Washington office, I heard many comments and reports about the difficulties of getting regeneration, particularly on the southern exposures in the Siskiyou, Umpqua, and the Willamette Forests. It seems to me you have come a long ways towards solving those problems.

Part of it, too, is the site preparation which I just mentioned Equally important is the weeding, the thinning after seedlings are established and the

release of them for brush competition. It seems to me that the Forest Service has a lot at stake in maintaining its ability to utilize chemical herbicides and silvicides to accomplish the timber management objectives.

My personal feeling about it is that there is little or no risk using the chemicals available. The major problem is the human relations problem and that is likely to stay with you for a long time. I hope that you will be able to keep this tool and use it, use it wisely so that it's less likely to be taken away from you. This is worth fighting for, so long as we're confident that it doesn't endanger human health and well-being. At present, I'm personally convinced that it doesn't. This to me is one of the highlights. Others include the improvement of accessibility, the extension of resource management into many, many areas, the successful regeneration, the intensive preplanning of your activities, something that nobody really dreamed of 40 years ago. At least we didn't dream that it would reach the intensity that it has reached. This is necessary if we're going to avoid mistakes and if we're going

to keep multiple use management effective and make it acceptable to the general public.

The passage of the RPA Act and other Acts and the awakened interest on the part of the general public in environmental affairs certainly made your job much more complicated than it would otherwise be. I don't see that this is going to go away. I think you're always going to have to feel this sort of thing. The way in which the Forest Service has responded to the multi-disciplinary approach to planning, long-range planning and short-range planning, I think is a remarkable accomplishment; it's gratifying to me.

One thing, frankly, that bothers me, is the amount of work, the amount of money, the amount of time it takes to get a given objective accomplished under this process. Of course, values are greater, all values, all of the resource values, not just timber values, the recreation values, the wildlife values, soil values, scenic values, are all much more. They're greater because people are utilizing them more and paying more attention to them and willing to spend money to protect and manage them. The Forest Service will never get back to the old days when just

a few men can use their experience and judgment in making decisions with little fear of contest or appeals from outside interests. Those days are gone forever and in a way, I think it's good. In another way, it kind of disturbs me that it's necessary to spend so much of the public money to accomplish a given objective. I guess we old-timers can think of the times when life was a little simpler and I hope that it doesn't get too complex. I think the fact that you do a good professional job, though, will help you in the long run in gaining and holding public confidence and that you may get away from some of the real frustrations and the detailed work that has become necessary just to forestall or offset public criticism. This is one of the things that I hope that you can accomplish.

I personally resent the unfair criticism that has come to the Forest Service over our timber and wilderness policies. I think much of it has been unfair. Anybody with an open mind that can see what is happening on this Forest should be complimentary rather than critical. When you're pioneering in a new era like opening up this Forest to utilization, some mistakes are bound to be made. The important

thing is not to repeat them and to minimize them and to avoid them in the future; I mean, to do a job so that we don't need to be apologetic. I don't apologize over the Forest Service's action in setting up wilderness areas and protecting the wild and scenic rivers. I think the pioneering work that we've done here is a great credit to the Forest Service. I fear that the wilderness advocates, especially the more militant ones, have made the pendulum swing a little far. I regret the lockup of the very important timber stands on the slopes of the lower Illinois River canyon, which I think could have been managed under a multiple use program and still have our wild and scenic river. It is my personal feeling that this should not have gone into the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area. That area and the Collier Creek Drainage contains enormous multiple resource values which are now in the wilderness and I doubt that they'll be removed in our lifetime at least, or until resource demands get very critical. But be that as it may, you have left on the Siskiyou large, very large areas, of land that can be managed for multiple use and enough to challenge the abilities of old foresters and the ones who are coming.

In regard to fire protection, the whole complexion of fire protection has changed. We used to rely on the location of lookout-firemen around through the area at frequent intervals, at enough density or frequency so that a man could be available to take initial action on fires starting in the back-country and then perhaps hold them down. That was before the advent of the smokejumpers and that action alone, of establishing a smokejumper base, minimized the need for so many lookout-firemen positions and I guess it was natural that many of them would be eliminated. The availability of aerial fire patrol further reduced the need for permanent lookout stations, permanently manned lookout stations I should say.

The installation of an intensive network of roads in the areas that have been opened to logging have made it easier to get to fires, although in this country, when you get 100 feet off the road, you're still fighting the brush and it's not easy country to get around in. You'll still have to rely, even on some of your roaded areas, on such things as fire retardants and trained crews and possibly smokejumpers to get into areas that are inaccessible. I'm concerned too, about the 180,000 acres in the

Kalmiopsis Wilderness. That is always going to have a high fire hazard potential. You could have a disastrous fire in there that would equal the old 1938 Chetco Fire which burned largely in what is now the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. You could have that any time you get a set of circumstances that would cause a blowup, so I would urge that you be vigilant and not let down your guard or reduce your capability for fast attack on fires in those kind of areas. If you do away with the smokejumper base at Cave Junction, I think you should be fully prepared to substitute something, some other combination of fire preparedness and fire attack forces that are equal or superior to the insurance that you get from the smokejumpers. I have some sentimental, and perhaps unjustified, reservation about doing away with the smokejumper base but I'm prepared to respect your judgment in whatever you do with it after you've studied it thoroughly and considered all of the alternatives.

With regard to personnel, this is another big shift. When I was here, as I've said before in the course of our trip around the forest, the Forest Service was running the Siskiyou with a very small force of

permanent people. They just happened to be very good ones and they were supported by a rather strong force of temporary people, mainly in the fire organization, the road and trail organizations. Of course, we had strong support from the CCC and other emergency work programs. All in all, the Forest was lightly manned. All of the people on the permanent payroll on the entire Siskiyou Forest was probably not much more than you have on one Ranger District at the present time. The diversity of the qualifications of your personnel has also expanded greatly. In the old days, we were generalists, we had to be generalists. Presently you have many specialized skills. I think this is good. When I was Chief, I worked for this; worked very hard for it, so we could do a better job. I'm glad to see it happen here. I know you recognize the problem that you can become over-specialized. You have certain specialists that become so dominant that you can get your programs out of balance again. Your job of administering this Forest is much different than mine was. You have to pull together the skills, the work of the very diverse groups of highly trained specialists to focus their abilities and their experience on certain problems and come out with answers that are in the public interest.

That is a major difference in the responsibility of the Supervisor here. It's quite a different ball game than the one that we had here 40 years ago. I think it's a necessary development. I like the looks of your personnel. I think you've got a good group of District Rangers -- knowledgeable, energetic, and enthusiastic over their work, the whole bunch of them. I don't think you've a real weakness in your District Ranger force. I didn't have quite as good a chance to evaluate your major staff officers -- they're a good looking group of men and experienced and then when you get into the sub-staff, it's hard to comment at all except to acknowledge the diversity that you've assembled. I assume that there'e qualified. It's interesting to me to see you having biologists and landscape architects as members of your planning teams, planning both the timber sales, operations, and your long range planning goals. This is something that I worked for.

One of my first trips down here, more than 40 years ago, was to try to get the Siskiyou Forest interested in doing a little wildlife or fisheries work, under the CCC program without much success. Now you're into these activities with professionals right on

the Forest working with the other professionals. I'm glad to see that.

Well, that's about it, Bill (Covey). It's hard to sum up the impressions -- that's what these mainly are, impressions -- that one gets in a week's travel and to make comparisons with things as they were and as I remember them. To me, it's been a happy experience and I appreciate the time you've spent with me, and the efforts of you and your staff and your Rangers to make my visit here enjoyable. It's been a most pleasant experience. Let me just display a little sentiment as one of the old-timers who feels very deeply about the Siskiyou Forest. I appreciate all of your courtesies, the hospitality, and the warmness I met here, and I hope you'll pass that on to the other people.